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14 February 1964

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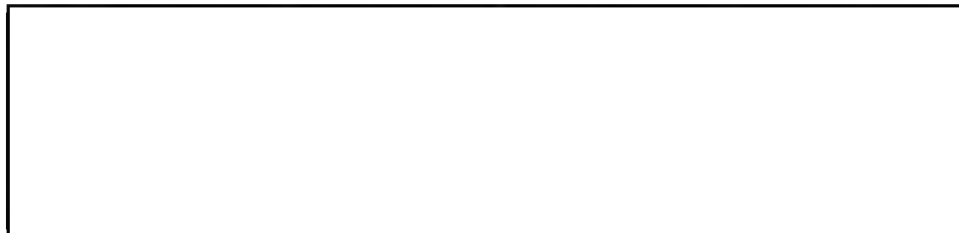
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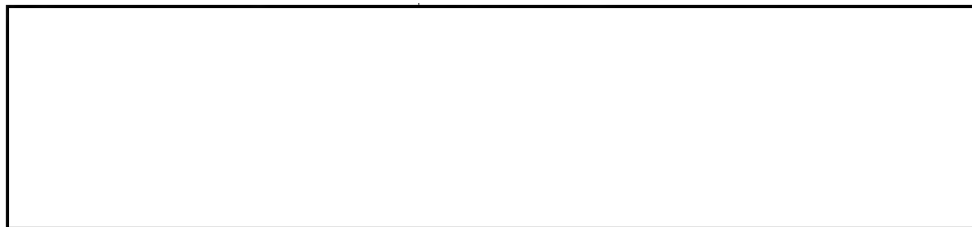
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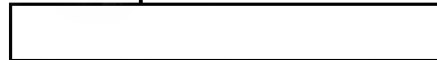


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*Cyprus: The situation is critical and the chances of early Turkish military intervention have increased.

A flash point appears to be rapidly approaching, both because of the heavy fighting that has been going on in the southern port city of Limassol, and because of Makarios' flat rejection of the latest Anglo-American proposals and his insistence on taking the issue to the UN.

The heavy fighting in Limassol during the last four days has involved the use of automatic weapons, mortars, and armored bulldozers. Casualties have been heavy, especially among the Turkish Cypriots.

British forces have been rushed in from other trouble spots on the island, leaving those places vulnerable to further outbreaks. Familiarization firing by irregulars also continues in key points throughout the island.

Any one of several situations could set off communal fighting throughout the island. If the Turkish contingent on Cyprus calls for help as the result of a general security breakdown, immediate Turkish intervention could follow.

Makarios has put forth additional counterproposals which may lead to another round of talks if time does not run out. Under Secretary Ball is meeting with Makarios again today.

The Turks are losing patience with Makarios' tactics. His control over the armed irregular forces may also be disintegrating.

Communist elements on the island are giving a heavy propaganda play to popular pressure on Makarios to proceed at once to the UN. Makarios obviously has an exaggerated impression of his prospects for quick and favorable treatment at the UN.

The Turkish National Security Council was called into session yesterday with top military commanders present. There has been no indication what decisions were made, but the government has publicly warned that "urgent measures must be taken to establish security on Cyprus."

In southern Turkey, company-level units are continuing amphibious training. Although no unusual movements have been reported, Turkish military forces are believed to have a continuing capability to launch an action against Cyprus with little or no warning.

Another indication of Turkey's state of readiness is its decision not to participate in the NATO exercise Early Bird which is scheduled to take place off Malta from 24 February to 6 March.

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South Vietnam: Dissatisfaction persists within South Vietnam's military and security forces.

Special Forces commander Major General Le Van Nghiem, a critic of previous regimes, stated recently that army morale had "further" deteriorated as a result of the latest coup. Many of the military regard General Khanh's takeover as being but part of a continuing power struggle among generals and as having brought no real improvement.

Nghiem speculated that middle-grade officers, seeing promotions and prestige accrue to coup participants, might be the next group to try to seize power.

New promotions among marine battalion commanders also caused resentment among some other officers, according to the American naval attaché. He fears possible repercussions on their combat efficiency.

The US Embassy believes the recent wave of terrorist bombings in Saigon was made possible in part by a decline in the quality of the police force, where extensive reshuffling and purges have occurred. Command of the force has changed three times since the November coup.

Considerable grumbling over the performance of the previous military junta preceded its overthrow on 30 January. Nghiem himself may have political ambitions, although there has been no direct evidence of this.

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Cambodia - Communist China: Prince Sihanouk appears ready to ask Communist China for additional military equipment.

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Last November, when Sihanouk declared his intention of replacing US assistance with aid from China, Peiping avoided any specific new commitment. The Chinese have supplied only token quantities of trucks and small arms. They also sent a group of military officers to Cambodia in January.

Sihanouk presumably hopes to get Chinese Communist equipment to help fill the gap left by the termination of US aid. A recent French offer falls considerably short of Cambodia's needs.

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NOTES

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Tanganyika: The Tanganyikan Government, stimulated by fears of a major plot against it, has undertaken an operation "approaching the magnitude of a major purge," [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Hundreds, mainly from police, the labor movement, and the lower levels of government, have been arrested and detained so far, and higher ranking officials may also be under suspicion. [REDACTED]

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